



State of Utah

Department of
Environmental Quality

Richard W. Sprott
Executive Director

William J. Sinclair
Deputy Director

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2008

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colleen C.
Mike
Greg

FIN A4381
A0586

February 4, 2008

Nevada
Environmental Protection

FEB 13 2008

BAQC / BAQP

Mr. Leo Drozdoff
Administrator
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
901 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Drozdoff:

The State of Utah and its citizens are keenly interested in several proposed power plants in Nevada. The Utah Division of Air Quality has been carefully reviewing the permitting process for three new coal-fired power plants, two near Ely and one near Mesquite. We have also attended each of the public hearings. Having been through this process ourselves recently, we well know the complexity of the regulations and the science involved. Further, even the cleanest of coal-fired plants are increasingly controversial given heightened public awareness of health issues and climate change.

We and the Governor's office have received significant input from Utah citizens opposing these projects. Individuals and groups have expressed concern over potential health impacts of particulate matter, ozone precursors, and mercury. Many are also worried about regional haze and Utah's national parks and monuments. Finally, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are needed to mitigate climate change.

Our agency also sees major challenges throughout the West in complying with any new ozone standard that follows the recommendations of the EPA's Clean Air Science Advisory Committee. Precursor transport may present problems similar to what the eastern US has had to deal with. Hence, we expect that all of us will be dealing with this standard on a regional rather than local basis at some point.

We fully recognize that the federal rules have lagged far behind the science in numerous areas and that, as agencies, we are bound by the law. However, we ask that these projects be meticulously evaluated in every aspect to minimize all pollutants or that they can be built at all.

We appreciate the work of you and your staff and know we share the common mission to protect public health as our first priority.

Respectfully,

Richard W. Sprott
Executive Director

Cc: Neil Ashdown, Governor's Chief of Staff



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FIN A0381

February 4, 2008

Nevada
Environmental Protection

FEB 12 2008

BAPC / BAQP

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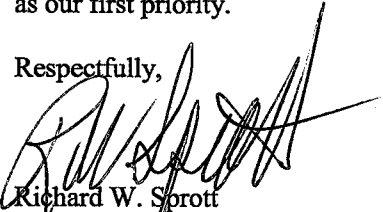
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